

The Semaphore

Publication of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers
Issue Number 119 March 1992

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Cleaning Up the City
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New Officer Election
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"Goddesses of Place, at the Oracle, North Beach."

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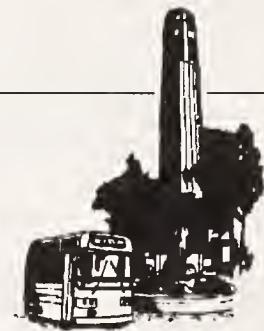
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Gerry Hurtado, 1156 Kearny St.	788-7723
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THD Motions Passed

January

Adopted the position proposed by the Presidio Committee regarding the preservation and development of the Presidio (see full text in story on page 6.)

Donated the guest fees collected at the Christmas party totalling \$115 to the North Beach Repertory Theater.

February

Approved the development of an application for a grant from the Neighborhood Beautification and Graffiti Clean-Up Fund, with Telegraph Hill Dwellers' commitment not to exceed \$3,000.

Cover Illustration by Rod Freebairn-Smith

"Goddesses of Place, at the Oracle, North Beach," otherwise known as the U.S. Restaurant on Columbus Avenue

President's Message

by June Fraps



The annual Christmas party, always a gala affair had a new feature this year. Grand prizes, ranging from fine wine to a trip to San Diego, were raffled off to benefit the North Beach Repertory Theater. Many thanks to Mia Morrill, Maud Hallin, Gerry Crowley, Kitty Donnelly, Mo Ludan and Ann Petersen who organized the raffle, and to the local merchants who contributed so generously (see page 26).

To augment the \$400 raised, the Board of Directors voted in January to donate guest donations at the party, an additional \$115, to the Theater.

After a break for the holidays, THD is planning a full schedule for the spring.

We started off the New Year with a theater party at a preview performance of Strindberg's "Miss Julie," a delightful evening that we hope to repeat.

Next on the agenda is a general membership cocktail party March 15 at the Maritime Museum, giving us a chance to explore their

wonderful collection of maritime memorabilia.

Our new mayor, Frank Jordan, has agreed to speak at a dinner April 13, giving us an opportunity to find out what his hopes and plans are. Bring your questions and your concerns!

Later in April, we're really rolling our sleeves up and getting to work. You've got a choice of community action projects: Sign up for Christmas in April, a April 25th project rehabilitating homes and non-profit facilities (see the story on page 26). Or, join neighbors in a grand neighborhood cleanup, meeting in Washington Square Saturday April 18th at 9 a.m.(see page 8). In both cases, it's a chance to have a good time while you're doing good deeds.

Other projects moving along: Roger Boyer and Gerry Hurtado are building planters for the minipark at Kearny and Vallejo, completing the memorial to Jim Ricereto. Also, the effort to "green" the hill continues under the direction of Rod Freebairn-Smith and

Michael Marsh. Jack Early is keeping on top of the strange "restoration" of 13 trees in place of the 16 originally uprooted at the North Point Center.

Elections

The THD nominating committee has proposed officers for the comming year. Voting will be at the general membership meeting April 13th.

The nominations are: June Fraps, President; Jordan Rosenberg, VP; Pat Lorentzen, Recording Secretary; Mia Morrill, Corresponding Secretary; Rita Buchfink, Treasurer; Thomas Whelan, Financial Secretary; Cheryl Bentley, Historian; Clyde Steiner, Semaphore Editor; Rod Freebairn-Smith, Ex Officio President; Chuck Harry, Bob Tibbits, James Valenti, Wells Whitney, Directors 1992-93; Maud Hallin, Gerry Hurtado, Jim Miller, Jarilyn Cerrutti, Directors 1992-94.

Answers From Mayor Jordon

by Diana Gaynor

Introduction

On a rainy St. Valentine's Day, Mayor Jordan gave the Semaphore the first interview granted to a neighborhood publication since taking office. According to his Press Secretary, Steve Bloom, the Mayor welcomes opportunities to work directly with neighborhood groups, such as the Telegraph Hill Dwellers. Indeed, following close upon the heels of this reporter, Bob Tibbits and his Wharf Committee awaited a meeting with the Mayor. Mayor Jordan will be speaking at an upcoming THD membership meeting, April 13th. It's an eagerly anticipated event, we are sure, considering the fun members have had with past administrations. Without doubt it will be an interesting evening.

Formulation of the following questions was a collaborative effort, and several THD members, including June Fraps, Bob Tibbits, Jane Winslow and Jim Valenti contributed valuable input.

Embarcadero

Q: The THD have gone on record for water access that would be gained by undergrounding a section of the Embarcadero roadway. Others advocate speedy completion of a four-lane boulevard with clearly marked turn-outs for Chinatown, North

Beach and Fisherman's Wharf. Where do you stand?

A: I'm wide open right now. I, too, would like to see a world-class boulevard that would open up our waterfront to pedestrians. However, timely restoration of the roadway is critical to the economic well-being of the many areas served by the Embarcadero. I need to meet with many groups in order to determine which plan will benefit the most people. While we have the funding for the underground project, what we don't know is what we'll find, once we begin excavating. There's always the possibility of toxic wastes, old dump sites; any number of unknowns. An Environmental Impact report will take 14-16 months, and CalTrans' best estimates for completion of Bay Bridge off ramps is 2.5 years. An attractive, efficient surface roadway could become a reality in far less time.

Affordable Housing

Q: THD believe that the Kirkland bus yard in North Point represents the last chance for affordable housing in the northeast corner of the City. What is your commitment to affordable housing, and what is the City prepared to do to expedite the



development of such units on City-owned land, such as Kirkland?

A: I believe affordable housing is essential to the development of a strong economic base in every neighborhood, and I'm going to pursue this vitally important issue with the Planning Department. I will also work closely with neighborhood groups, seeking their input at every step. Kirkland is a choice property in a key area of San Francisco, and certainly, using it as an overnight parking lot for MUNI busses does not represent best use of the land.

Traffic

Q: The streets of North Beach are gridlocked. Commuters from Marin park on Telegraph Hill and hike down to the Financial District. Our critical little 39-Coit bus, which carries tourists and residents, many of them elderly, from the Wharf to Coit Tower, does not connect with the cable cars, nor will it connect with the proposed Embarcadero F-line. THD is an advocate for more public transportation in densely populated areas like North Beach, but MUNI is once again cutting service and increasing fares. What is your public transportation policy?

A: I want to see added public transportation, not service cuts. My goal is a clean, safe, efficient MUNI system which provides readily available coaches and connections. I feel that the parking issue could be effectively addressed by providing more off-street and underground parking.

Planning

Q: A major campaign issue for you was to "shake up the City's cumbersome planning process and to make the Planning Department more user friendly to developers and homeowners." What will you look for in a new Planning Director; will he or she be a good arbitrator, or a visionary, or have a strong design background?

A: My new Director will be a problem-solver, one who knows how to expedite the planning process. Discretionary Design Review is cumbersome and slow, sometimes taking up to two years for approvals. I want to see the reduction of what has been a far too complicated and bureaucratic permit process; perhaps the creation of a "one-stop permit shop" will make it easier to get things done in San Francisco.

Budget Cuts

Q: We have one of the most liveable areas in the country, yet we are often beset by civic problems that limit our ability to fully enjoy our City. Now, budget cutbacks threaten a further reduction of the services, such as public libraries, that contribute to our quality of life. Recently, Kent Sims, from your budget office, was quoted as saying that some library branches may have to be closed due to cutbacks. Is there anything we can do to prevent what would surely be an irrevocable loss to a literate, civilized society?

A: My department heads are mandated to balance their budgets by June 30. If library closures are, in fact, proposed as a way to accomplish this, I will seek any compromise to keep them open. One idea is for volunteers to augment regular library staffs, also sharing staff between branches. I would even think closing libraries one day a week would be far better than permanent closure.

Quality of Life

Q: Alan Haile, incoming President of San Francisco Urban Planning and Research (SPUR) has given us a rather memorable vision of our City:

Some of us would prefer to return San Francisco to what it was; others would opt to keep it as it is.

An option open to us is to facilitate San Francisco's becoming what it can be; the most civilized place in the world, with a quality of life that supports an acceptable human condition for all San Franciscans.

What would you add to that, Mr. Mayor?

A: That's very well said, and I share in Alan's vision. I don't believe we can live in the past, but we *can* bring the best qualities of the past into the future. Change is healthy if it works in the best interests of all citizens. We need to focus on the kind of civic improvements that will ensure the next generation of a safe, clean and prosperous City in which we all can take pride.

Ready, Set, Go! The Presidio

by Rozelle Overmire

Is the National Park Service ready for the Presidio conversion? After attending the Presidio Forum, sponsored by the GGNRA Advisory Commission and the Presidio Council, on January 11 at the Non-Commissioned Officers Club in the Presidio, the consensus seems to be that the National Park Service has a long way to go in planning what will meet the public's approval.

At the lengthy meeting attended by about 200 people, over sixty speakers responded to the NPS's published "Presidio Concepts Workbook". This booklet had been sent out to 8,200 people, eliciting written responses from only 250. The Workbook outlines four plans for development: Preservation and Exploration, Environmental Living and Learning, Cultural Crossroads, and Recreation and Renewal. Written responses showed that Preservation and Exploration took the highest priority with Environmental Living and Learning second. All the plans are based on funds to be raised by park partners (undefined as yet), and to be administered by the GGNRA.

Many speakers pleaded for hard copy on budget and environmental questions, for tenants names and for justifications. The NPS has not published specifications on these matters. Professional management was called for and the Presidio Foundation was mentioned as a possible

candidate. Generally, most speakers felt it was time to stop planning and time to start the transition with hard facts.

There has also been concern over cleaning up environmental damage at the Presidio. The Army released a statement February 11 that an additional \$10 million in fiscal year 1992 funds will be provided to the Presidio of San Francisco to fund necessary repairs that will ensure a smooth transition from an Army base to a national park. The Army hoped to counteract the angry civic reaction to an earlier statement that withheld these funds.

At the last Telegraph Hill Dwellers Board of Directors meeting on January 14th, Chuck Harry, Chairman of the Presidio Committee, presented a report on the Presidio progress to the Board. In response, the Board approved an official position on the Presidio. It is as follows:

"The Presidio, possessing outstanding natural, historic, scenic, and recreational values, should be preserved for public use and enjoyment.

"Recognizing the density of San Francisco's existing development and in appreciation of the city's green space, preserve the Presidio, as far as possible, in its natural setting. Protect the Presidio from development and uses which would

destroy the scenic beauty and natural character of the area.

"Specifically, minimize any increase in vehicular traffic on city streets and minimize any additional demands for city services. Encourage access to the park via public transit. City services (e.g., public transit, police and fire service, water and sewer) required within the Presidio should not be provided to the detriment of existing services elsewhere within the city.

"The park's budget should include the cost of any required city services. The city's taxpayers should not be expected to cover these costs. A clear explanation of funding, uses of revenues, as well as the support for maintenance needs, should be shown."

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Wild Parrots On The Hill

by Helen von Ammon

There's nothing new about great flocks of pigeons in San Francisco. But the harsh, maniacal screams of birds in flight across my fourth floor window riveted my attention. These were not pigeons; these were parrots. In a flock of 14 to 20 they zoomed across my building on Telegraph Hill in November and December and flew to the east. About 9 one morning in December I saw them again in Washington Square. Vociferously noisy, they circled around the square and alighted atop the redwood tree on Union Street. Their raucous cries attracted the attention of other morning walkers, awed by the sight of so many beautiful parrots, all of whom seemed to be related... green bodies about 12 inches long, red heads and red markings on the wings. One delighted observer exclaimed, "The wild parrots of Telegraph Hill! I saw them here in the 50's, and now they've come back!"

National Geographic Society's *FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA* lists birds with similar markings, as "Red Crowned Parrot." I've talked to the naturalist at the Audobon Society and Nicolette Heaphy of the San Francisco Zoological Society and I found that not a lot is known about flocks of wild parrots.

What is known is that it is quite common for individual birds to escape if their wings are not properly clipped. Parrots also live such a long time, often more than 50 years, so that owners or their heirs may intentionally release the birds. Most domesticated animals do not make the transition. But, the surviving parrots are very gregarious and flock together, sometimes in groups of 100 or more. They move from one location to another for protection, and may join other groups to help locate food as birds freed longer have already discovered good locations.

When they've finished feeding, wild parrots alight in the tallest tree for a vantage observation point and to ensure that tree climbers, such as raccoons and possums don't come up after them. Since parrots are not predators, eating seeds and fruits exclusively, they do not compete with other animals for food.

Hill Kulture

The Players

You have until March 14th to catch the polished production of Strindberg's Miss Julie at the North Beach Rep theater on the third floor of the Cannery. The play is at 8 on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Phone 928-4860.

The Painters

Tom Lee's Fine Art Studio, 523 Green Street, will host a wine and cheese reception Friday March 6th from 6 to 8 p.m. for the show of new paintings by Will Combs, Maria Marcotulli, and Lind Ross.

Historian's Report

by Cheryl Bentley

The Bulletin was celebrating THD's victory over the baddies in defeating a ban of the 40-ft. height limit proposed by the Telegraph Hill Property Owners Council. In the April, 1961, issue the Bulletin recounted how THDers had appeared before a Board of Supervisors committee and persuaded that body to table a motion favoring the ban.

In advocating higher buildings the Telegraph Hill Property Owners Council submitted a 24-page booklet maintaining "Nearly 90 percent of the structures are sub-standard and fail to comply with minimum building code requirements. A large number of these dwellings are unfit for human habitation."

The Bulletin concluded, "When TEHPOhollers, we will have to holler longer and louder and oftener."

Today's THD Jim Miller and his cleanup brigade will be heartened to learn that efforts to clean up the hill have a long history. The tidy souls of the 60's had successfully persuaded the city to install litter baskets at strategic locations.



News from the Garfield Liasion

by Tricia Brown

Kudos to all the Dwellers who rallied forth with their Safeway receipts! Garfield now has \$63,000 + on their way to the goal of \$150,000 to purchase Apple Computer equipment for the school.

The drive continues so please keep your Safeway receipts and bring them to THD meetings, bring or send them to the school at 420 Filbert, 94133 or send them to the THD, P.O. Box 330159. Many people said they didn't feel they had big enough amounts to justify sending the receipts in. Please, don't worry about this. Every penny counts! It all adds up!

Helen Von Ammon and her bunnies will be the focus around Easter time. Helen raises three Angora rabbits and uses their wool for weaving her beautiful textiles. In April, Garfield students will visit her studio and meet the bunnies and learn about weaving. Then, Helen will visit the school and read stories she wrote about the bunnies.

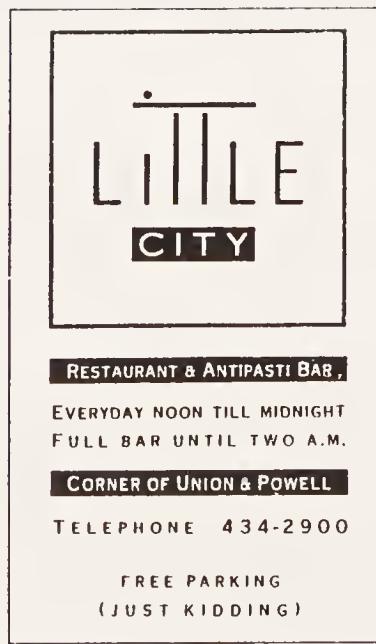
Also, in April we will be entering the Make-Your-Own-Miniature Garden contest in the Landscape and Garden Show at Fort Mason which is a benefit for the Parks and Recreation Department. Our theme is The Rainforest, so if anyone has any tropical plants please let me know. We need a lot of small tropical plants. If you would like to participate in this project, you are elcome also.

Katherine Koelsch Kriken visited the school the other day and generously offered her time as a volunteer. Thank you, Katherine!

Imagine being in the fourth or fifth grade and having the opportunity to learn about the earth from a Stanford University professor! THD member Paul Switzer read the last issue of The Semaphore and volunteered to teach an earth science class for half an hour every Friday. He is a terrific teacher! The kids love him! The first class he asked everyone to write him any questions about the earth and he has been spending the past few weeks answering those questions. To his surprise, the question most asked was "How did you get to know all that stuff?" This is the question every educator wants to answer, to connect students' efforts in the classroom to success in their future lives.

Our volunteer teachers recommend you to share their knowledge and expertise and commit to teaching at Garfield one or two sessions per month. We'll keep you posted in the Semaphore. Please contact Tricia Brown, 433-1827 hm/982-2823 school, or Janet Crane, 398-4094, if you can participate.

Again, THD, thank you for your support and enthusiasm for Garfield school!



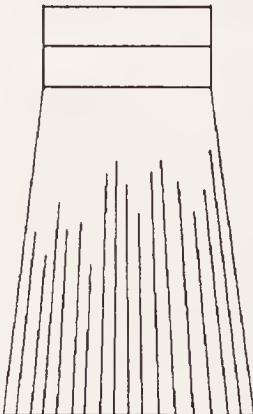
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New Adventure at The Library

by Eileen Wampole

Spring is a great time to set out on new adventures. Books from our children's collection can help you pursue a real-life adventure or transport your imagination to exciting adventures in other places and other times.

Real-life adventures are right at your doorstep, even in the city. For instance, Miriam Schlein's book *Pigeons* will open your eyes to the surprising abilities of this oft-despised city bird whose capabilities go far beyond messing up statues. And even if you can't go outside, you can always learn about the ants marching across your kitchen counter in *Looking at Ants* by Dorothy Patent. But if you're lucky enough to venture further afield, books like *What's Under That Rock?*, *Crinkleroot's Guide to Walking in Wild Places*, *Discovering Seashells*, aid many other guides to the natural world can turn even the simplest excursion into an adventure.

Another kind of adventure is to learn how to do something new. We've got books that show you how to play chess, how to grow plants, how to make and fly kites, how to bake a cake—how to do just about anything!

And if your imagination is ready for an adventure, we have books that can take you all over the world and even to places that are simply out of this world. You can voyage to the South Seas with Pippi Longstocking or hunt treasure and fight pirates with Jim Hawkins on Treasure Island. You can journey through the wardrobe to the marvelous Land of Narnia or join Laura and her family in all their little houses, in the big woods, on the prairie, by the shores of Silver Lake.

So when those mild spring breezes start calling you to adventure, drop by the library. We can help you on your way.

And don't miss our special free family April Fool's Day program at 7:30 P.M. on April 8 when storyteller Lee Kerwin will direct his considerable talents to telling tales of fools and tricksters.

Regular children's programming includes films on the third Tuesday of each month. Half-hour preschool program are shown at 10, 10:30, 11 A.M., and 3 P.M. Forty-five minute program for school-age children start at 3:45 P.M. On all other Tuesdays, lapsits for infants and toddlers start at 10:15 A.M and stories for preschool children at 11 A.M.



Things to Enjoy with Kids

by Mia Morrill

You can bring the wonders of nature to your kids even in this concrete city. All of our recent rain showers will surely bring us some fine spring garden possibilities! Some of my favorite gardens are off the many steps that lead to Colt Tower. Name the flowers you know. Know them by their scent. Count the cats! When you reach the top of The Hill, try one of the hot dogs sold by the vendor in the Colt Tower parking lot. The hot dogs are made in San Francisco and are delicious.

If you see our gardener, George, introduce yourself and talk about the Tower's greenery. You might also tour the recently refurbished tower murals and ride the elevator to the top for a bird's eye view of our neighborhood and beyond forever. My three year old claims she can even see the house of her grandparents in Minnesota. Coit Tower is open from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. seven days a week. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for seniors and children aged 6-12. Children under 6 years enter with no charge.



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Diana's Window

Elegy

by Diana Gaynor

Some Semaphore readers may remember a rather self-congratulatory little article I wrote last spring about the joys of living on Telegraph Hill. It went something like this; Why would anyone choose to live in a tiny apartment perched on the edge of a cliff, subject to rockslides, an indifferent landlord and nosey tourists? . . . because I can't imagine living anywhere else.

I must be guilty of hubris, for the gods have surely exacted a most terrible retribution. I'm an evacuee, homeless but for the generosity of friends. I have just discovered that my renter's insurance does not cover landslides. I left with my cat, my active real estate files, and the clothes on my back.

I could use this space to rehash, yet again, what it was like to be in the building when the cliff gave way (I was working on my Mayor Jordan article when it happened). Instead, I'd like to try and thank the countless people who have rallied behind me in my hour of need. Heartfelt thank yous to June Fraps, Gerry Crowley, Rod Freebairn-Smith, Bob Tibbits, Jerry Hurtado, and Clyde and Shari Steiner, Hill Dwellers all. To my friends and neighbors up and down Alta Street, and around the corner on Montgomery; Laurel and Anne, and the guy across the street with the cute yellow Labrador Retriever, to my good-hearted neighbor, Jane

Barrett, who rescued Mehitabel and me on that terrible Saturday, and took us in out of the rain - she even ran up to Speedy's to buy some kitty litter for Mehitabel's comfort. Thanks, of course, to Marshall and Art up at Speedy's - they're always there for us in a crisis, aren't they? My deepest thanks to Ken Maley whose help went above and beyond. I owe him dinner at the very least.

I'm looking for a new home now, perhaps some place I can grow to love as much as I loved my precarious perch on Alta Street. Any and all leads would be appreciated, though I'd probably want to avoid cliff-hangers in future. I am picking up messages at 415/433-7333.

Was it worth it? Well, I think I spent five of the happiest years of my life in that place, going about in a permanent state of intoxicated wonder at the ever-changing view outside my windows; the sweep of the bay, the bridge with its fairyland lights, the parrots, the seals, Filbert Steps cats, the funny looking tourists, sitting on my deck on a warm September night with the sublime strains of a Mozart piano concerto singing in the background, toasting the rising moon with a glass of wine, curling up by the fire with the funny papers and my good French roast coffee on a rainy Sunday morning...

God, I'm going to miss that place.

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Telegraph Hill Traffic and Parking

Nancy Katz, Co-Chair
Traffic and Parking,

S.F.'s Parking and Traffic Commission held a hearing on January 21st on Coit Tower traffic and parking problems. The THD testified on the need to fully utilize the #39 bus giving it "by pass" priority on Telegraph Hill Blvd., to promote the Park and Ride free shuttle from the Golden Gate Garage to North Beach and to encourage walkers and walking tours in an effort to get tourists and visitors out of their cars.

There were proposals for motorized cable cars, tour vans and tour buses, but the THD sees no sense in adding more vehicles, noise, and fumes to the long waiting line to Coit Tower. The Commission asked the city departments to bring 3 or more viable proposals to another meeting soon (perhaps held in the neighborhood).

Meantime we will continue to work with Recreation and Park and Muni on the problems.

One of the most urgent traffic and parking problems in addition to the tower is Montgomery St. on the east side of the hill. As their paving project is completed, we have requested a review by the traffic engineers to increase legal parking through the use of compact spaces, scooter spaces and to minimize all red zones.

Double parking, motorized cable cars and stretch limous-

Goodby Freeway, Hello Embarcadero



Jaws of Death take their last bites of freeway concrete. Photo © 1992 by Nancy Katz

sines have added additional hazards to both the flow of traffic and access by emergency vehicles.

We have received complaints that #39 bus drivers have been skipping certain parts of the route (to stay on schedule?) leaving riders stranded for 45 minutes or more. Our promotion of the Coit Tower bus is pointless if the drivers choose to bypass Muni's key connections and free shuttle stops at Washington Square. If you are aware of this please call me at 986-1890 from noon to 10 p.m. with date and time so that we can make corrections with Muni management.

We are pleased to announce that Gerry Hurtado has volunteered to co-chair the Traffic and Parking committee. His help is most appreciated. Welcome aboard, Gerry.



Blanch Germain Streeter

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A Piling by any Other Name...

by Bob Tibbits

Marjorie Cox, Deputy Attorney General of the State of California, gave a new interpretation to the meaning of "fill," at a recent S.F. Bay Conservation and Development Commission meeting.

In 1986 the Attorney General had issued an "informal opinion" on pile-supported structures that pre-dated the 1965 McAteer-Petris Act, such as our finger piers, but also including the Ferry Building and the Agricultural Building. Replacement and cross-bracing of these 80-foot wooden piles, it concluded, constituted "fill" which could *only* be done for a "water-oriented" use. Since the restaurant, shops and offices in these buildings are not technically used as such a manner, the required replacement of these rotting supports to meet seismic safety standards could not be done without mitigating action to restore the shoreline.

Alan Pendleton, Executive Director of BCDC, however, assured the Port, in a pole vault leap of logic, that the more than 100,000 surface square feet of the 104-year old pilings supporting the Ferry Building (345 piles support the clock tower alone), constituted only "minor fill." Since these buildings are historic landmarks, he reasoned, BCDC could in its discretion authorize the replacement of

unsafe pilings even for non-water-oriented uses.

The only previous exercise of such discretion had to do with the historic ships, representing about 2,500 surface square feet each, in Aquatic Park. Not surprisingly, the Port felt a little shaky on these grounds. At the Port's request BCDC sought legal advice from Sacramento, and after nine months review of this decaying situation, the Attorney General at the January 16th meeting of the commission released a new interpretation of BCDC's discretionary authorization of "minor fill" acknowledging "it may be that there are some individual historic structures whose preservation would require so much fill that a court would conclude that its characterization as "minor" is insupportable."

The Attorney General pointed out, however, that BCDC could properly grant a permit to replace these pilings if it was "necessary to the health, safety and welfare of the public in the entire bay area," as set forth in the McAteer-Petris Act, which created the commission.

There was ample federal and state legislation, the Attorney General opined, to conclude that "the preservation of historic structures is necessary to the public welfare."

Further, it noted that after the Loma Prieta earthquake the State Public Resources Code was amended to provide that no historic structure "that has been damaged due to a natural disaster...may be demolished, destroyed, or significantly altered, except for restoration to preserve and enhance its historical values." This opinion considerably broadened the latitude of the Port of San Francisco to restore the underpinnings of the Ferry Building.

BCDC meets at 1:00 PM on the first and third Thursdays of the month in Room 1194 of the State Office Building at 455 Golden Gate Avenue. Interested parties may call 557-3686 to receive notice and the agenda of each meeting.

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Social News

by Gerry Crowley

The Maritime Museum, at the foot of Polk Street on the north waterfront, will be the location of a Spring general membership cocktail party on Sunday, March 15. Like our annual Christmas party, hosted by Jeffrey Pollack at Julius' Castle, this event promises a unique setting.

Our patience has been rewarded with a commitment from Mayor Frank Jordon who has agreed to be our guest speaker at our general membership dinner meeting on Monday, April 13, at Castagnola's.

Permit and construction delays have prevented us from scheduling an event at the soon-to-be-reborn Enrico's on Broadway. The new owners hope to host our group in mid-May.

Detailed invitations to the above events will be mailed to all members.

Wing's Grocery to Become Fog Hill Market



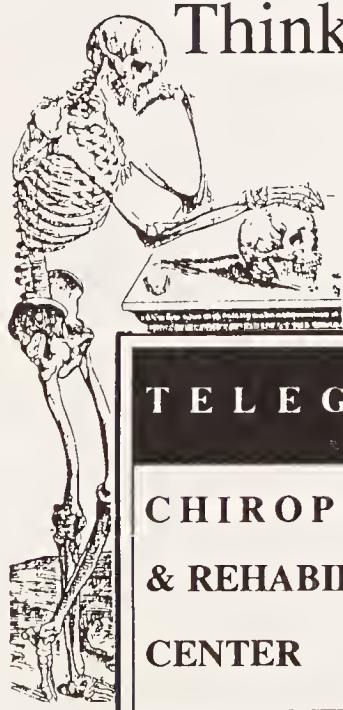
©1992 Photo by Gerry Hurtado

Rose and Wing Chin have decided to retire and sell their "Mom & Pop" Wing's Grocery after 29 years. Luckily for Telegraph Hill residents the new owners, who also own the New Russian Market at Pacific & Jones, intend to refurbish and reopen the grocery store as the Fog Hill Market.

The Kearny & Green store will be open 7 days a week with extended hours for customer convenience says Simon Marina, one of the partners.

In behalf of the neighborhood, the Semaphore thanks Rose and Wing Chin for their years of service to our community and extends its welcome to the Marina family wishing them every success.

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More Construction on Telegraph Hill

by Wells Whitney

It never rains, but it pours - that's the old saying! Just as the Montgomery St. reconstruction project is finishing, two other projects are about to begin. Meanwhile, the plans of DPW were to complete the Montgomery St. project by the end of February or as soon as the rains allowed. Replacement and reconstruction of upper Montgomery St. from upper Alta to below the Filbert steps is the only section left to do. The contact at DPW is still Cheryl Towns at Public Affairs (431-9430).

One new project is due to the sliding of the hill edge during the rains of this last month. As of this writing, Alta street is closed off, and there is uncertainty as to whether the 5 unit apartment house at the end of the street can be saved, and if so, how it should be done.

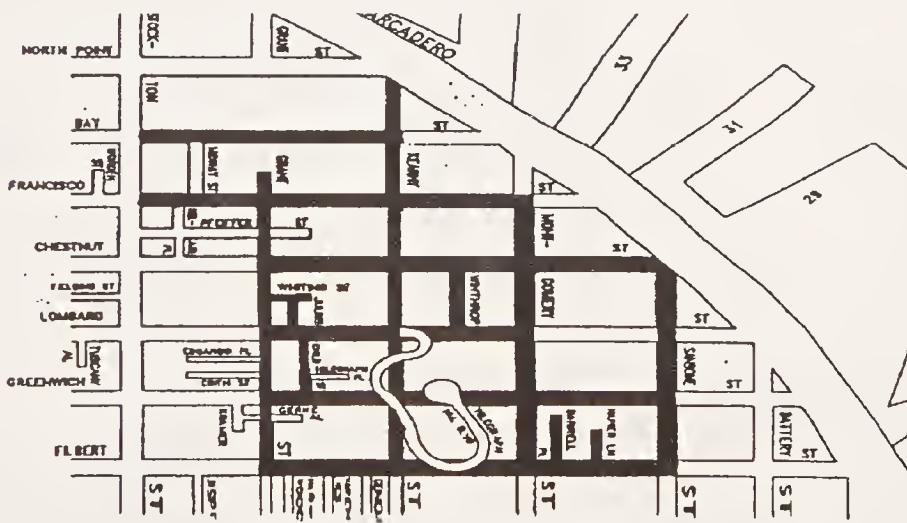
PG&E's project will replace aging gas pipelines in the Telegraph Hill area beginning April, 1992. This is part of their 20-year replacement program in San Francisco, approved in 1985 by the California PUC. Old, deteriorating pipelines of cast iron are being replaced by a combination of steel and plas-

tic piping, which will last longer and are more resistant to earth movement.

The PG&E construction is within the area bounded by Bay and Filbert, from Grant to the Embarcadero, inclusive (see map). The construction will affect only 1 or 2 blocks at a time. It will begin near the Grant - Filbert corner and is due to be complete by the end of July, 1992. There will be block closures around each immediate work site, restricting parking but pedestrian access will not be blocked. Streets will be kept open as

much as possible for residents, businesses, and emergency vehicles. The construction period for each block should be about one week.

PG&E will be contacting each home owner/manager soon, not only to explain the work schedule, but also to discuss any hook-up and gas meter relocation that might be desirable. Most meters will be replaced with new units for the high pressure gas lines. Questions regarding any part of the PG&E work may be referred to Roy Surges, PG&E Customer Service Representative, at 824-7367.



The heavy lines indicate the streets where work will take place.

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Who Needs Another Cookbook?

by Rozelle Overmire

We're all besieged daily by recipes and cooking advice in the newspapers. We clip out the appealing ones and sometimes try them. In the bookstores and library there are hundreds of cookbooks to choose from. Even in our own publication, the Semaphore, recipes from local restaurants are featured. Why should the Telegraph Hill Dwellers collect and test recipes for their own cookbook, and compete with the professionals?

I see this as an exciting project because we have something unique to share with the rest of our neighbors and our city. Our style of life is not unlike other Californians and yet, because we live on Telegraph Hill, we have access to ethnic markets and restaurants that help influence and inspire our cooking.

We make history as we live, and sharing that with later generations should be reason enough to gather recipes. I own a copy of "High Living, Recipes From Southern Climates," which was published to benefit the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Association in 1904 and reprinted in 1907. It is a charming reminder of our past.

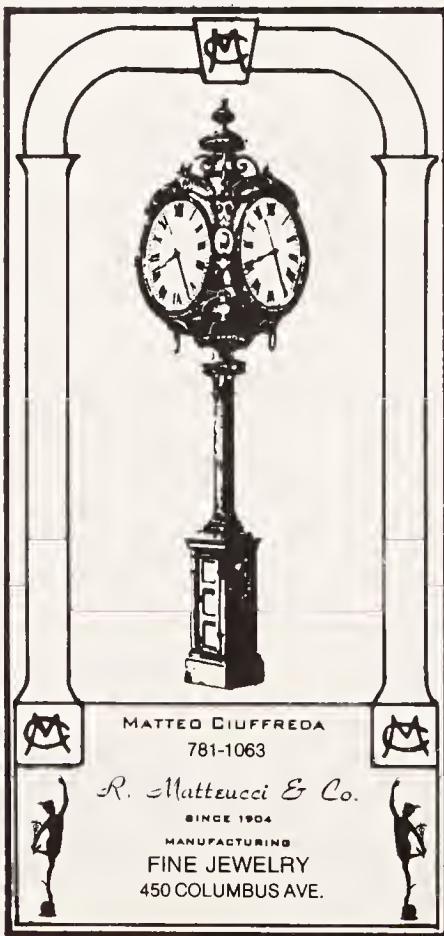
Our inspirations can change others with the same knowl-

edge to produce fresh, uncomplicated, healthful, original, attractive food to serve themselves, their families, and friends. Aspirations aside, we hope the book will be a way of fundraising for both the THD and Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center.

The groundwork for our THD cookbook was laid by June Fraps. She started a cookbook committee four years ago. She collected over 80 recipes and tested more than half of them with the help of her committee. She investigated printing costs and even got to the point of a mock-up of the book with an illustrated cover. But somehow, the project waned. June is now our THD President and has more pressing matters.

I've recently reviewed June's full box of historical tidbits and tempting recipes volunteered by neighbors, shopkeepers, and restaurateurs. I hope these recipes will soon jump out of that box and have a place on neighborhood tables. I was lucky enough to test a few of the recipes and to join others for dinner and testing tastes when June was going full bore on the project.

Without any advertisement about starting the project up again, a Telegraph Hill Dweller called me the other night to volunteer his help because he saw my phone listed under Cookbook Committee. Well, how about it? Is there anyone else interested in continuing this idea? I'm ready to start if you are. Give me a call at 989-3945.



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Planning & Zoning Committee Report

by Jim Valenti

Members of The THD Planning & Zoning Committee have been busy the past several weeks helping to improve our corner of the city. Through their efforts our Board of Directors keep an eye on activities in the neighborhood. By challenging illegal projects and reviewing designs for proposed construction, our committee impacts our community's environment.

Thanks to the determined efforts of Lowell Groves and Herb Kosovitz, the city Building Department has been made aware of illegal construction at 407-411 Lombard Street that apparently dates back as far as 1975. The final straw was an illegal addition, visible from the street and the surrounding buildings, made to an illegal unit on the roof. The project has been "red-tagged" by the city and a hearing date made on an appeal by the owner is pending.

An illegally established Grant Street pornography shop was put out of business due to the diligence of surrounding merchants and neighbors like Kitty Donnelly and Monsignor Wang of St. Francis of Assissi Church. In this case a brief investigation revealed the business was in violation of the zoning code and had fraudulently obtained building permits to convert the store front space.



A variance request to waive off-street parking and open space requirements in order to add 5 "Guest Rooms" in the basement of 521 Green Street sparked another barrage of complaints. A member of our committee was at the Planning Department hearing to express concern over the number of tenants already living in the building (2 units and 20 "Guest Rooms") and previous complaints regarding litter and garbage generated at that address. The variance requests have been put on hold and the city Attorney's Office has begun to process an injunction against the property stemming from violations cited in a 1987 inspection and ignored since that time. Marsha Garland of The North Beach Chamber of Commerce was instrumental in organizing the effort to reveal these facts.

The Planning & Zoning Committee has also been involved in the review and revision of new projects planned for our neighborhood. We provide a forum for neighbors to see proposed designs and to comment on those plans. Their astute criticism from their many individual vantage points around

the project have often helped the architects to shape more widely accepted solutions. The remodeling and addition to 347 and 349 Lombard Street by Bruce Bonacker Associates and the new Switzer residence and cottage on the Filbert Steps and Alta Street by Freebairn-Smith & Associates are two recent examples where neighbors have had an impact on the final form projects take.

Our next project review is scheduled for February 19, 1992 when Architect Karen Pacen of Richard Braton & Associates will present plans for remodel and additions to 111 Telegraph Hill Blvd.

Finally, Planning & Zoning members Kitty Donnelly, Herb Kosovitz and Jim Valenti represent the THD as members of the "Committee To Illuminate Washington Square." This is an ad hoc committee composed of members of North Beach Chamber of Commerce, North Beach Neighbors, Russian Hill Neighbors & THD and has been instrumental in the conceptualization and realization of this effort to increase the use of North Beach's major open space. Things have moved quickly considering the magnitude of bureaucracy that must be put into motion. A test light has been installed in the ground under the olive tree at the Northwest portion of the sidewalk "oval" near

Continued next page

...Planning

the children's play area. It is ready for your inspection so please walk by some evening and call if you have any questions and/or comments.

Soon the "Committee to Illuminate Washington Square" will be contacting you directly. We hope a large number of residents will support this project through personal donations via our fund raising mailer.

Do you want to contribute to the neighborhood and help enrich day to day life for each of us? Your contributions of time, effort, ideas or special knowledge can help. Our Planning and Zoning Committee is open to each of you. We know a lot of people care about our city and we provide a way to make a difference. Call Jim Valenti 398-0076.



Tel-Hi Center News

By Denise McCarthy

HAT'S OFF TO TEL-HI is the theme of The Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center's Annual Dinner Dance, May 8 at the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club. We hope everyone will wear a hat, with prizes given for the most original. The dinner, at \$100 a person, will benefit the Center's programs. Jeanne Milligan and Tina Keker are co-chair for the evening.

Tel-Hi will represent North Beach in a nine neighborhood consortium — Neighborhoods in Transition: a Multicultural Partnership (NIT-AMP) — recently funded through the Federal Office for Substance Abuse Prevention's Community Partnership Program. The consortium is funded for five years and will develop strategies for substance abuse prevention in the nine neighborhoods — Sunset, Richmond, Hayes Valley, Japantown, North Beach, Bernal Heights, Diamond Heights, South of Market and Haight Ashbury.

The NIT-AMP project activities include a needs assessment and a substance abuse prevention campaign designed specially for each neighborhood. Tel-Hi will provide space and oversee the work of a neighborhood organizer. Neighborhood associations such as THD, business associations, schools, and churches will be asked to participate in the development of the North Beach needs assessment.

Tel-Hi recently received a United Way grant and Neighborhood Empowerment Plan (Mayor's Office of Community Development) funding to create a North Beach-Chinatown Youth Council. The purpose of the council is to bring the multi-racial youth of our neighborhood together. Leadership training, community activities, and substance abuse education are issues the council will tackle. The Council will solicit expertise from neighborhood residents and businesses. Tel-Hi is working with Community Educational Services, a Chinatown agency, on this program.


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Lo Coco's - Sicily on Union

by Marsha Garland

Lo Coco's, at 510 Union near Grant, calls itself an "authentic Sicilian restaurant and pizzeria." Despite that statement boldly placed under the restaurant's name, several items speak of other regions. In fact, Lo Coco's menu reaches for the international with an appetizer of succulent New Zealand Mussels Parmigiana (\$6.95) and a tribute to the icy north with a Pizza Alaska concocted with smoked salmon (\$13.95), as well as Fettuccini Alaska (\$13.25).

Three pizzas, the Napolitana, the Sorrento and the Vesuvio, allude to Campagna and its major city, Naples, just across the Straits of Messina. Pesto, which originated in the province of Liguria, turns up with fettuccine, as well as on the Genovese Pizza. For those not inclined to Sicilian cuisine, there are many concessions to well-known Italian dishes, including a Tortellini Gorgonzola (\$11.95).

My introduction to Sicilian food came years ago after careful perusal of Marcella Hazan's *More Classic Italian Cooking*. A recipe, with a compelling, yet odd, juxtaposition of ingredients caught the eye of my imagination. The Sicilian dish, after which I wrote an exclamatory "Superb!!", was Pasta con le Sarde alla Palermitana. Translated, Pasta with Sardines, Palermo Style, is hopelessly dull in English. This classic concoction known as Palermo's Pride, is touted as Sicily's oldest pasta dish.



When I first went to Lo Coco's, I was delighted to find Pasta con le Sarde on the menu. At first, I was annoyed when the waiter asked if I knew what I was ordering. He almost cautioned me not to order it until his explanation revealed that many unaccustomed diners order the pasta and, overwhelmed by the unexpected, hastily send it back to the kitchen.

Pasta con le Sarde is a melange of chewy perciatelli noodles boiled in fennel flavored water, and afterwards tossed with sardines, currants, pine nuts, caramelized bread crumbs, olive oil, onion and saffron. Italian sardines are different from the inexpensive, strongly-flavored ones found here, which usually come from Norway.

Restaurant founder Giovanni Lo Coco came to this country from Sicily in 1962. He worked as a waiter at Scoma's at Fisherman's Wharf and in 1968 was voted San Francisco's Best Waiter of the Year. Nowadays Giovanni divides his time between here and his home in Sicily. His daughter Suzanne runs the North Beach establishment, which opened in 1990.

With every dish Lo Coco's serves an addicting schiacciatta, a Sicilian flat bread made with pizza dough and basted with olive oil.

Equally addicting are the Sicilian olives served with each meal. Insalata Emancipate (\$7.95), is a green salad with pecans, gorgonzola cheese, currants and olives, the Insalata Aphrodisiac (\$8.95) is made with arugula, endive, radicchio, anise and olives.

The first pasta, originally named maccaruni, was made in Sicily. Legend has it maccaruni was a form of cannelloni. The Sicilian-style cannelloni is \$9.95. Another classic Sicilian dish is Mezza Zita Alla Norma, pasta with garlic, eggplant and tomatoes at \$10.95. This dish was named after the opera *Norma*, by Sicilian composer Vincenzo Bellini.

Those who love fresh, whole milk, bocconcini mozzarella and hand-packed ricotta will be happy to know that these cheeses are made locally in Martinez by Ferrante Cheese Co., run by Sicilian Vincenzo Ferrante. He is the father of Michele Ferrante, who owns North Beach's popular Gira Polli.

There are 20 pizzas to choose from at Lo Coco's ranging in price from \$8.75 for a small Pizza Alla Paesana, plainly sauced and topped with cheese, to \$19.95 for a large Capricciosa with pesto, escargot and fresh tomato.

For homebodies, Waiters on Wheels will rush the meal to your door. Lo Coco's also offers take out service. Call 296-9151.

Police Community Relations Programs

by Kitty Donnelly

The Police Community Relations Committee for Central Station consists of representatives of the neighborhoods and businesses in the Central Station District (from the Financial District and Geary St. to the Bay South to North, and from Larkin Street to the Bay West to East).

Every other month speakers are invited to present programs on areas of concern or interest to our area. Our January speaker was Audrey Moy from the District Attorney's office who brought us up to date on the frauds and scams currently operating in San Francisco (see Pat Lorentzen's Crime Notes for some alerts). On March 19 we will have representatives from the S.F. Department of Public Works, the Clean City Coalition and Norcal to talk about garbage and litter.

Residents also have an opportunity to meet with Captain Petrini who is there to answer your questions and listen to your comments about problems in the area.

Meetings are held at Central Police Station, 766 Vallejo St. at 7:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. If you wish more information or if you would like to be put on the mailing list for future meetings, just give me a call at 986-0472.

Telegraph Hill Dwellers Cash Flow Statement Arlene Smith - Treasurer

BANK OF AMERICA OPERATING ACCOUNT BEGINNING BALANCE JANUARY 1, 1992	\$ 1,138.53		
<hr/>			
CASH RECEIPTS			
4010 MEMBERSHIP DUES	24.00		
4030 SEMAPHORE ADS	1,061.00		
8030 SOCIAL Bought Stamps	11.80		
<hr/>			
TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS	1,118.80		
<hr/>			
CASH DISBURSEMENTS			
CHECK PAYEE	ACCT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
2002 JUANITA RINCON	8010	Membership mailing	4.16
2003 JIM VALENTI	8070	Board Meeting	39.17
2004 BOB TIBBETS	8040	Committee Expenses	14.70
2005 KEMPER FUND	1020	Transfer to M.M.	1,400.00
2006 N. BEACH REP.	8060	Social XMas Fund	110.00
2007 POSTMASTER	8070	P. O. Box Dues	55.00
2008 S.F. TOMORROW	8050	Membership for Year	15.00
2009 ERIC JOHNSON	8020	Semaphore Mailings	139.20
<hr/>			
TOTAL CASH DISBURSEMENTS			1,777.23
<hr/>			
BANK OF AMERICA OPERATING ACCOUNT ENDING BALANCE JANUARY 31, 1992	\$ 477.90		
<hr/>			
KEMPER MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT BEGINNING BALANCE JANUARY 1, 1992	\$ 9,807.15		
<hr/>			
CASH RECEIPTS			
CASH TRANSFERED IN	1,400.00		
INTEREST EARNED	29.05		
<hr/>			
TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS	1,429.05		
<hr/>			
CASH DISBURSEMENTS			
CHECK PAYEE	ACCT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
38 PRINTING PLACE	8020	Semaphore Printing	927.17
38 PRINTING PLACE	8030	Semaphore Printing	40.85
<hr/>			
TOTAL			968.02
<hr/>			
KEMPER MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT ENDING BALANCE JANUARY 31, 1992	\$ 10,268.18		

Crime Notes by Pat Lorentzen

Be especially careful of telephone solicitations for money. There are numerous telemarketing scams operating - from fraudulent charities to bogus investments, the latter often promising an attractive return on your money. Remember, there is no free lunch. If the caller is reluctant to mail information about the organization and says that you must act NOW to take advantage of the offer, that should arouse your suspicions. And NEVER - but NEVER give your credit card number in response to telephone solicitations. If you have any questions, call the San Francisco District Attorney's Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit at 553-1814.

CRIME STATISTICS, - 1991 VS. 1990 NOV.-JAN. NOV.-JAN.

TYPE	1990-91	1991-92	% CHANGE
Homicide	0	0	
Rape	1	0	
Robbery	7	7	
Assault	29	10	
Burglary	24	17	
Theft	108	68	
Auto	48	23	
Other	157	83	
TOTAL	374	208	-44.4%
TOTAL MAJOR*	217	125	-42.4%

*Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Assault, Burglary, Grand/Petty Theft, Auto Theft, Purse Snatch

You Can Make it Christmas in April

by Pat Lorentzen

"Christmas in April" is a nationwide, nonprofit organization dedicated to the rehabilitation and renovation of homes and nonprofit facilities for low-income, elderly and disabled people. The projects are funded by corporate and foundation sponsors, as well as by neighborhood associations and individuals.

Each year, volunteers conduct a one-day blitz in April. In 1991, the San Francisco Chapter's blitz renovated 30 homes plus 3 facilities and tackled two larger, longer-term projects - the Larkin Street Youth Center and the Friends of St. Francis Childcare Center.

This year the date is Saturday, April 25, with the focus in the Bernal Heights area. Volunteers don't have to be architects, carpenters, electricians or painters, although all those skills are needed. Everyone is welcomed and you will be given a job you can handle.

If you're interested in giving a day to participate in this worthy effort, call Pat Lorentzen at 781-0456 before April 1. I'll coordinate the THD contingent with CIA, aka "Christmas in April".

THD Xmas Party Benefits North Beach Repertory Theatre

The prize raffle at the Xmas party to benefit the North Beach Repertory Theater was organized by Gerry Crowley, Kitty Donnelly, Mia Morrill, and Maud Hallin

They would like to thank all these contributors who helped make the THD Christmas party a super success.

Donations were received from: The restaurants Quiet Storm, Charley Brown, Las Margaritas, Ale Garden Cafe, Modern Myths, Pizzeria Uno, Benvenuti Pizzeria Cafe Oritalia, Gaylord of India, The Magic Pan, Compadres Mexican Bar & Grill, The Mandarin, and Paprikas Fono.

A special thanks goes to Mo Ludan for obtaining the donations which made the grand prize "A Weekend in San Diego" possible.

Donations were also received from Stewart Bloom, Saleem Zaheer, Maud Hallin, Mia Morrill and Ann Petersen.

Welcome New Members

Since the last Semaphore was published, the following new members have joined THD: Richard and Kate Hanlin, Joan Levy, William K. Jung, William Kirkland, Anna Minott, John Murray, Pamela Simpson, Andrew and Anne Junius, Anthony Alioto, Sally Gould, William J. Rutter, Dale Nansel, David Vanini, Peter Manolakos, Dawne Bernhardt, and Tom and Kate Whelan. In addition, Chuck Thomas and Rosie Aguirre were listed incorrectly in the last Semaphore.

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THD Calendar

March	March 15, Cocktail party at the Maritime Museum, 5 p.m.
April	April 8, April Fool's Night at the library, 7:30 p.m. April 13, THD election meeting, & speaker Mayor Jordon, at Castagnolas 6 p.m. April 25, Christmas in April, call Pat Lorentzen 781-0456 April 18, Clean up the Hill - meet in Washington Square, 9:30 a.m.
May	General membership dinner at the new Enrico's (Tentative)
June	Cocktail party (Tentative)
July	
August	General membership dinner (Tentative)
September	Coit Picnic (Tentative)
October	Cocktail party (Tentative)
November	General membership dinner (Tentative)
December	Christmas party (Tentative)

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